



ARTICLES

To be enquired of, by the
Church-VVardens, and

Sworne-men, in the Visitation of
the Right Worshipfull, the Archdea-

con of Swyre.



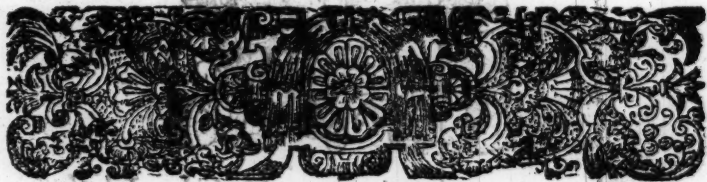
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*The tenour of the Oath of the Church-
wardens and Sworne-men.*

Y¹⁰ou shall sweare, that vpon due consideration of these Articles given you in charge, you shall present euery such person of or within your Parish, as you shall know to haue committed any offence, or omitted any duty mentioned in any of these Articles, or which are publikely defamed, or vehemently suspected of any such offence or negligence: So helpe you God, by contents of his holy Gospell.





ARTICLES.

Touching the Church.

WHether is your Church or Chappell, with the Chancell thereof, and every part of either of them, well and sufficiently repaired, glazed, paved, or any thing noysome or unseemely?
2 Wether is your Church-yard well fenced, as hath bene accustomed: if not, whose default is it?

3 Wether hath there bene any fighting, chiding, brawling, or quarrelling in your Church or Church-yard: and by whom?

4 Wether is the mansion house of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, with all the building thereunto belonging, and Church-house sufficiently repaired, maintained, and to their right uses, imployed?

5 Wether haue you in your Church the Bible in the largest Volume, the booke of common prayer lately authorized by his maiestie, the bookes of Psalmes allowed, the two Psalters, a convenient Pulpit for the Preaching, a decent seat for the Minister to say Seruice in, conveniently placed, a strong chest with an hole in the lid, & three lockes and keyes, one for the Minister, the other for the Church-wardens, for the Lmes of the poore, & the keeping the Register Booke of the Christenings, Mariages and burials?

6 Wether haue you in your Church a Font of Stone for Baptisme, set in the ancient vsuall place, a decent Table for the Communion conveniently placed, covered with silke or other decent Tuffe in time of diuine Seruice, and with a faire Linnen cloth ouer that, at the administration of the Communion?

7 Wether haue you all such Vels, ornaments, and other utensils as haue anciently beloged vnto your Church: a Communion cup of siluer with a couer; a faire standing pot or scoope of siluer or pewter for the Wine vpon the Communion Table, a comely surplesse with large sleeves, a Register

Articles.

booke of parchment for Chyftenings, Pariages, & Burials, a booke for the names of all Strange Preachers, subscribed with their names, & the names of the Bishop or others by whom they had Licence?

8 Whether are weekly the names and surnames of all persons married, chystened, and buried, and of their parents, with the day and yeare, entered into your said parchment booke, and euery lease being full, subscribed by you the Ministers and Church-wardens?

9 Whether are all your seats in your Church in good repaire, cleanly kept, conueniently placed, & the parishioners in them, or else where orderly set? is ther any contention or struing for any seat or place amongst them?

10 Whether in any of your Churches the partition betwene the Chancel and the body of the Church, be taken away? And how long since, and by whom? haue you a Terrier of all the gleab-land, and other appurtinances belonging to your Church?

Touching the Ministrie, seruice, and Sacraments.

Whether is the whole Common praier said or sung by your Minister both morning and euening, distinctly and reuerently euery Sunday and holyday, and on their Cues, and at conuenient & vsuall times of those dayes and in most conuenient place of the Church, for the edifying of the people?

1 Whether doth your Minister obserue the orders, rytes, and ceremonies prescribed in the booke of Common prayer, in reading the holy Scriptures, prayers, and administration of the Sacraments, without diminishing in regard of preaching, or any other respect, or adding any thing in the matter or forme thereof? doth he baptize in any basin or other vessel, and not in the ordinary font?

2 Whether doth your Minister on Wednesdays and Frydayes, not being holydayes at the accustomed houres of seruice, resort to the Church, and say the Letany prescribed, & doth your Clarke or Sexton giue warning before, by tolling of a bell on those dayes?

3 Whether doth your Minister, as oft, as he administreth the Communion weare the Surplesse & first receiue it himselfe? Whether doth he vse any bread or wine newely brought, before the words of institution be rehearsed, and the bread and wine present on the table? whether doth he deliuer the bread and wine to euery communicant senerally?

4 Whether doth your Minister giue warning publicly in the Church at morning prayer, the Sunday before he administreth the Communion for the better preparation of the Parishioners?

5 Whether hath your Minister admitted to the Communion any notorious

Articles.

rious sinner openly knowne or defamed, or any who hath openly and maliciously contended with his neighbour, before repentance and reconciliation made and done by appoyntment of the Ordinary :

7 Whether hath your Minister admitted to the Communion any Churchwarden or Wideman, who hath wilfully and willingly neglected (contrary to his oath) to present any publike offence or scandall, being moved to present either by some of his neighbours, the Minister, or his Ordinary :

8 Whether hath your Minister administered the Communion to any but such as kneele, or doe any refuse to kneele : hath he administered to any who refuse to be present at publike Prayer : or is there any who hath depraued the Book of common Prayer, administration of the Sacraments, or the Rites and Ceremonies prescribed, or the Articles of Religion agreed vpon anno Dom. 1562. or the booke of ordering Priests and Bishops : or spoken against his Maiesties Supremacie : or haue any bene for these causes repelled, and what be their names :

9 Whether hath your Minister more Benefices then one : if he haue, how farre distant are they, how often is he absent in the yeare : when he is absent, hath he an allowed Preacher for his Curate :

10 Whether is your Minister and allowed Preacher : if he be, doth he euery Sunday in your Church, or some other neer adioyning where no Preacher is, preach one Sermon euery Sunday :

11 Whether doth your Minister being no Preacher allowed presume to expound the Scripture in his owne Cure, or elsewhere : doth he procure euery Moneth a Sermon to be preached in his Cure by preachers lawfully licensed, and on euery Sunday when there is no Sermon, doth he or his Curate read some one of the Homilies prescribed :

12 Whether is your Curate allowed by the Ordinary vnder his hand and seale, to serue in your Cure, and whether doth he serue two Churches or Chappels in one day :

13 Whether doth your Minister in saying the publike prayers & usually administering the Sacraments, weare a decent Surplesse with sleeves : and being Graduate, doth hee weare therewith a hood by the order of the Universities, agreeable to his degree :

14 Whether hath your Minister or any other Preacher in your Church, preached any thing to confute or impugne any doctrine deliuered by any other preacher, and hath hee and they vsed the prayer for Christs Catholike Church, as is prescribed by the Canon :

15 Whether hath or doth any preach in your Church which refuseth to conforme himselfe to the Lawes, Rites and Ordinances established, or

Articles.

which hath not first shewed a sufficient Licence :

16 **W**hether doth your Minister in his Sermons four times in the yeare at the least, teach and declare the Kings Maiesties power within his Realme to be the highest power vnder God, to whom, all within the same owe most loyalty & obedience, & that al foraine power is iustly taken away :

17 **W**hether doth your Minister euery Sunday and Holyday halfe an houre before Euening prayer or more, examine and instruct the youth in the ten Commandements, the Beliefe, the Lords Prayer, and the Catechisme set forth in the booke of Common Prayer :

18 **W**hether hath your Minister married any which haue not bene thrise seuerall Sundayes or holydayes asked in your Church in the time of Diuine seruice, without Licence : and hath hee without Licence, married any, or with any Licence but onely from the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of the Diocese, or his Chancellour :

19 **W**hether hath your Minister either with Licence or without, married any at other times then betwene the houres of Eight and Twelue in the forenoone, or in any private house, or before their Parents or Gouernours (the parties being vnder the age of 21. yeares) haue testified their consents :

20 **W**hether doth your Minister declare to the people euery Sunday at the time appointed, what holydayes and fasting dayes be the weeke following: doth he being a Preacher conferre with all Recusants, and persons excommunicate or suspended in his parish: being no Preacher, doth he procure a sufficient Preacher to reclaime them thereby :

21 **W**hether doth your Minister keepe a note of all persons excommunicate, and once euery six months doth he denounce them which haue not obtained their absolution, on some Sunday in seruice time, that others may be admonished to restraine their company :

22 **W**hether doth your Minister hauing notice given him diligently visit the sicke (the Disease not being infectious) doth he instruct and comfort them, doth he then mooue them to make their Testaments, and remember the poore, and other woorkes of charity :

23 **W**hether hath your Minister refused to baptize any childe brought to the Church vpon any Sunday or Holyday, or to bury any corpes brought into the Church or Churchyard, & to Church any woman, hauing had conuenient warning thereof :

24 **W**hether hath your Minister, being truly informed of the danger of death of any infant unbaptized, and being desired to goe to the place where the child is, to baptize it, neglected to goe, by meanes whereof the child died unbaptized :

25 **W**hether

Articles.

25 Whether doth your Minister at any time preach or administer the Communion in any private house, or church any woman except when any are so impotent that they cannot goe to Church, or are very dangerously sick, where and how often hath he so done?

26 Whether hath your Minister held or appointed any publique fast, or bene present at any? doth he or any other person in your Parish hold any Lecture or exercise, without the Licence of the Bishop, under his hand or seale, or attempt by fasting, or other wise to cast out any devils?

27 Whether hath there been any secret conventicles or meetings in your Parish, by any Priest, Minister, or others, tending to the depraving of the forme of Prayer, Doctrine, or the government of the Church?

28 Whether doth your Minister in his iourney, weare a cloake with sleeves, called a Priest's cloake?

29 Whether doth your Minister resort to any Tavernes or Alehouses, or doth he boord or lodge in any such place? or doth use any base or servile labour, drinking, riot, dice, cards, tables, or any other unlawfull games? Is he contentious, a hunter halower, dancer, swearer, suspected of any incontinency, or hath given any evill example of life?

30 Whether is there in your Parish any Minister or Deacon, who hath forsaken his calling, using himselfe in his course of life as a Gentleman or other Lay man: Or any that is not in holy Orders, read Common prayer or use any ministeriall duty in your Church or Chappell?

Touching Schoolemasters.

VWhether have you in your Parish any Schoole-master, who teacheth either in publique Schoole, or private house, is he of sound religion, or doth he give any evill example of life? is he allowed by the Ordinary? or doth your Minister or Curate teach and is he allowed in like mannere?

2 Whether doth your Minister or Schoolemaster who teacheth, teach the Catechisme by authority set forth?

Touching the Parish Clarke, and Sexton.

WWhether have you a Parish Clarke sufficient for his place, of the age of 20 years at the least: is he of honest conversation, can he reade, write, and sing? is he diligent in his office, and serviceable to his Minister, and not given to overmuch drinke, or any other vice? is he chosen by the Parson or Vicar, doth he take upon him his Clarkeship before he hath taken the Oath of Supremacy before the Lord Bishop, or his Commissary?

2 Whether doth your Clarke meddle with any thing about his office,

Articles.

as churching of Women, burying of the dead, reading of prayers, or the like?

3 Whether doth your Clarke or Sexton keepe your Church cleane, the doores fast locked, is any thing by his default lost or spoiled in the Church? doth he suffer any vnseasonable ringing, or any prophane exercise in your Church?

4 Whether doth your Clarke or Sexton, when any is passing out of this life, neglect to toll a Bell, hauing notice thereof, or the party being dead, doth he suffer any more then one short peale, and before his buriall one, and after the same another?

5 Whether doth any in your Parish refuse to pay vnto the parish Clark or Sexton, such wages as are vnto them due, and haue bene accustomedly payed?

Touching Parishioners.

VWhether hath any in your Parish spoken against or any way impugned the Kings Maiesties Supremacy in causes Ecclesiasticall, the truth and doctrine of the Church of England, the forme of Gods worship contained in the Booke of Common prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments?

2 Whether hath any in your parish spoken against or impugned the rites & ceremonies established in the Church, the government by Archbishops, Bishops, Deanes, Archdeacons, and others that beare office in the same?

3 Whether any haue in your parish spoken against or impugned the forme of making & consecrating Bishops, Priests or Deacons, or haue any separated themselves from the society of the congregation, & combined in a new Brotherhod, or deprauid the Synod lately held by the Kings authority?

4 Whether doth any in your Parish profane, violate, or mispend the Sunday or holyday, or any part of them, vsing any offensive conuersation, or wooldy labour in those dayes?

5 Whether haue any in your Parish in the time of Diuine Service, couered his head, albeit he hath no infirmity, in which case a cap or night-copse is allowed: or is there any who hath not reuerently knelled when the generall confession, Letany, or other prayers are read, and which doe not stand vp at the saying of the Beliefe?

6 Whether hath any in your Parish disturbed the Service or Sermon by walking, talking, or any other way, or departed out of the Church during the Service or Sermon, without some vrgent cause, or loptered about the Church or Church porch?

7 Whether doe all Parishioners receiue the holy Communion thrice euery

Articles.

every yeare at the least, whereof the feast of Easter to be one, & haue all be-
ing of the age of vii. yeares duly receiued, or not ?

8 Whether hath any Parent bene bged to be present, or admitted to
answer as Godfather for his owne child, or hath any Godfather or God-
mother made any other answer or speech then is prescribed by the Booke, or
haue any ben admitted for such a baptisme, who haue not first receiued the
Communion, doe anie keepe their children longer then is conuenient ?

9 Whether doe all Fathers, Mothers, Masters and Mistresses, come &
cause their children, seruants and Apprentices to come duely to the Church,
and according to the Ministers directions to be instructed or catechized ?

10 Whether haue any persons married together within the degrees of
consanguinitie or affinitie prohibited, set forth in a Table, appointed to be
placed in euery Church ?

11 Whether haue any persons once lawfully married, forsaaken each o-
ther, or doe liue asunder without the authoritie of the Ordinarie, or doe any
being diuorced or separated, marry againe the former wife or husband yet
living ?

12 Whether haue any bene married in the times wherein mariage is by
law restrained, without lawfull Licence viz. fro the Saturday next before
Aduent Sunday, until the fourteenth of Januarie : and from the Satur-
day next before Septuagesima Sunday, untill the Sunday next after Low
Sunday : and from the Sunday next before the Rogation weeke, untill
Trinity Sunday ?

13 Whether haue any in your Parish irreuerently vsed your Minister,
or haue any laid violent hands vpon him, or disgraced his office and calling
by word or deed ?

14 Whether haue you in your Parish any dweller or sojourner, who is
a maintainer of popish Doctrine or suspected to keepe schismaticall bookes,
or to fauour any heresie or errour ?

15 Whether haue you any common resorters vnto your Church, which
are not of your parish, or doe any such, heare diuine seruice, and receiue the
Communion amongst you : what be their names, and of what parish are
they ?

16 Whether haue any in time of diuine seruice, vpon sundayes or holi-
dayes, opened their shops, exercised their trade, vsed any gaming, bene in
Taverne or Alehouse, or otherwise employed ?

17 Whether are there in your Parish, by common fame and report, any
Adulterers, Fornicators, Incestuous persons, Bawdes, receiuers, close
fauourers, coineyers away, or which suffer to depart any incontinent per-
sons

Articles.

sons unpunished: and blasphemers, common swearers, drunkards, ribauds, bickers, malicious slanderers, scolds, oz followers of disord, oz any defamed of the said crimes :

18 Whether doe any in your Parish admitter the goods of the dead without authority, oz suppress their will and testament :

19 Whether doe any refuse to pay fo the reparations, oz ornaments, and other things required in your Church, as they are indifferently sessed, oz any other dwelling out of your parish, which hold land in your parish :

20 Whether hath any person excommunicated, bene suffered to heare diuine Service oz Sermon, to receiue the Sacraments, to be married oz churched: oz haue any excommunicate been buried in Christian buriall: doe any frequent their company, who be they :

21 Whether hath any in your parish ben christened, churched, buried, oz receiued the Communion, oz ben married out of your Church without licence (both parties dwelling in your parish :

22 Whether haue all women in your Parish deliuered of child, come at convenient time after to Church to giue thanks, and haue they ben churched according to the booke of common prayer :

23 Whether hath the perambulation of the circuit of the parish bene observed once every yeare: if not whose default is it :

24 Whether haue any in your parish giuen the church-wardens, oz Stewards, oz any of them, euill words, fo doing their duty according to their oath and conscience :

Touching Church-wardens and Sworne-men.

WWhether doe any in your Parish take vpon them to be Church-warden oz Steward, which are not lawfully chosen by the Minister and parishioners according to the canon, oz doe any continue that office longer then one yeare, except he be chosen againe, and are all such officers chosen yearly in Easter weeke :

2 Whether doe your Church-wardens within one moneth at most, after their yeare ended, besoze the Minister and parishioners, giue by a iust account of all such money, and other things, as they haue receiued, and bestowed: haue they deliuered all remaining in their hands belonging to the Church oz parish, by bill indented, to the next Churchwarden :

3 Whether haue the Churchwardens, with the aduice of the Minister from time to time provided a sufficient quantity of Red white bread, and wholesome wine for the number of Communicants :

4 Whether

Articles.

4 Whether doe the Church-wardens and Swoyne-men before euery visitation and at other times, when there is iust occasion, meet and confer about their presentments, and the answering of their Articles : and who hath (after notice giuen him of the time and place) carelesly absented himselfe ?

5 Whether the forfeiture of twelue pence for absence from Church, appointed by statute for the vse of the pooze, be taken & leauied by the church-wardens and imploied according to the said statute : and whether is the same forfeiture taken of all persons which stand wilfully suspended or excommunicated ?

6 Whether haue any Church-wardens lost, sold, or detained any goods, Dynaments, Bels, Kents, or implements of the Church ?

7 Whether doe the Church-wardens and Side-men, suffer any to say diuine Seruice, or preach, being not lawfully allowed : & doe they, about the midst of Diuine Seruice, vsually walke out of the Church, and see who are abroad in any Alehouse, or elsewhere absent, or euill imploied, and whether haue they presented all such to the Ordinary ?

8 Whether doe you know or haue heard a same of any offence committed, or duty omitted by any of your parish, before your time, and heretofore not presented to the Ordinary, or as yet not reformed, and whether haue you presented the same ?

9 Whether hath any part of your Church been lately altered, new built, or any addition made thereunto, the wals pulled downe, new doores made into the Church, or any sollaries built there by any, without allowance of the Ordinary ?

10 Whether is any part of your Church imploied to any prophane vse, is your Church-porch, Church walls, and Church-yard, cleanly kept without any annoyance, in whose default is such annoyance ?

11 Finally, doe you know of any matter or cause, which is a branch of the lawes Ecclesiasticall, here not expressed ?

FINIS.